



Urban District Council
of Ulverston.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

Year ending December 31st, 1942.

ULVERSTON :

FLETCHER AND ROBINSON, QUEEN STREET.



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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
District Council of Ulverston.

: Annual Report of the :
Medical Officer of Health.

ULVERSTON,

APRIL, 1943.

GENTLEMEN,

Instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Health that Medical Officers of Health should abbreviate their reports as much as possible, and it is not very difficult to do this as it has been impossible to carry out anything but absolutely necessary work during the year.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT. I need not hesitate to say that your district is kept under careful supervision, both as regards systematic inspection and the carrying out of special inspections in the case of reports of infectious diseases or sanitary defects.

WATER SUPPLY. I need scarcely assure the Authority that the water supply has always been plentiful and its purity beyond suspicion as the appended recent analysis, chemical and bacteriological, proves.

The supply is now subject to chlorination and I have not heard of any complaints of the taste being affected by the process.

ANALYSIS, 23RD MARCH, 1943.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.					parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia	...				0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...			0.004
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	nil
Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.100
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	1.50
Equal to Sodium Chloride	...				2.47
Oxygen consumed in 15 minutes					0.034
Oxygen consumed in 4 hours	...				0.108
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃)	...				6.71
Total Solids	...	...	...		9.60
Lead Solvency in 24 hours	...				0.4 parts per million

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

Colour	...	...	...	...	Faint Brown
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Nil
Taste	...	...	...	...	Indistinct.
Smell	...	...	...	...	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Organisms growing on Nutrient gelatine at 15°C	...	...	...	186 per cc
Liquefying organisms	...	...	...	107 per cc
Organisms growing on Nutrient Agar at 37° C	...	...	...	42 per cc
Organisms of the bacillus Coli group	absent in 50 cc			

OBSERVATION. This is a very pure water, containing very little organic matter and of low hardness. It is admirably adapted for all domestic purposes.

H. HORACE WARD,

DRAINAGE. Attention is given to the sewerage and drainage systems and this attention is necessary on account of the very inadequate fall allowed in some parts.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. With one or two exceptions I can safely say that the dairy cattle in your district are well housed, but it has to be remembered that quite a considerable portion of the milk is produced in the adjoining Rural District where conditions, although not really bad are not always satisfactory. The greatest difficulty is with the milkers, impressing upon them the necessity for care in milking and regular cleansing of the quarters and udders.

From time to time the question of Pasteurisation has been discussed at the Committee Meetings of the Council. As a policy of perfection there is no doubt Pasteurisation is excellent, and its universal adoption would be a most valuable step in progress, but the problem of putting the process into practical effect will be a huge one, but Pasteurisation is bound, sooner or later, to be made compulsory, in the meantime I should insist that all milk supplied to Schools, to be taken in the raw state, should be Pasteurised.

HOUSING. It will be observed from the Surveyors report that Housing has been in abeyance, but during the year temporary bungalows have been erected on the Fell Street Estate by the Ministry of Aircraft Production. Although these bungalows are not all that could be desired they have been erected to house the influx of war workers.

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL. In spite of the difficulty which arose through a depleted staff I think I can safely say that this important branch of sanitary administration is carried out most efficiently, and the refuse is

tipped in accordance with the system adopted at Bradford, and I am satisfied that no nuisance can possibly arise therefrom.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ...	...	...	3,196
Population, 1931	...	...	9,284
„ 1941	...	...	11,100
Inhabited Houses, 2684	...	...	...
Rateable Value ...	...	...	£55,471
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	£218

POPULATION. Circular 2773 issued by the Ministry requests that populations should not be published, and in my calculations I am relying upon an approximate figure.

	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate per 1000
BIRTHS—Legitimate	170	97	73	
Illegitimate	18	13	5	
Totals	188	110	78	16·9

SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIRTHS.

1st Quarter ...	...	23	21	44
2nd Quarter ...	...	24	24	48
3rd Quarter ...	...	36	16	52
4th Quarter ...	...	27	17	44
Totals	...	110	78	188

Last year the birth-rate was 17·1 per 1000.

	Total	Males	Females	Rate per 1000
DEATHS—Legitimate	138	65	73	
Illegitimate	2	0	2	
Totals	140	65	75	13.5

WARD DISTRIBUTION.

	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
North	2	3	2	3	1	4	4	4	9	14
South	6	4	6	6	4	5	4	4	20	19
East	1	7	2	4	2	1	5	1	10	13
West	7	5	2	6	1	1	7	3	17	15
Central	3	3	1	6	2	3	3	2	9	14
Totals	19	22	13	25	10	14	23	14	65	75

Last year the death-rate was equal to 12.4 per 1000.

AGE PERIODS OF THE DEATHS.

			Males	Females	Total
Under one year	...	...	4	1	5
Between 1 and 65	...	...	32	22	54
65 and upwards	...	...	29	52	81
Totals	...	...	65	75	140

INFANTILE DEATHS: which means the deaths of infants before reaching the end of their first year of life as compared with the number of births registered during the year. At this age period there were five deaths which equals an Infantile Death-rate of 26'5 per 1000 births as compared with 9 deaths and a rate per 1000 births of 47'3 in 1941,

CAUSES AND WARD DISTRIBUTION OF THE INFANTILE DEATHS.

	North Ward		South Ward		East Ward		West Ward		Central Ward		Total		Rate per 1000 births
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Pneumonia	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1 1
Congenital Defects...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1 1
Premature Birth	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1 0
Totals	...	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3 2
													26'5

In the year 1941 there were nine deaths at this age period equal then to a rate per 1000 births of 47'3.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES. During the year twelve certificates have been received notifying Tuberculosis of the Lungs, 7 females and 5 males, and eleven notifying cases of Tuberculosis of other Organs, 4 males and 7 females, there have been three male and three female deaths from Tuberculosis of the Lungs and one female death from other forms of Tuberculosis, the rate per 1000 being for Tuberculosis of the Lungs 0·51 and from all forms 0·54 per 1000, the rate in 1941 was 0·09 per 1000. The Tuberculosis Department of the County undertake the treatment of all forms of Tuberculosis.

Age Incidence of the Notified Cases and Deaths.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
5—10	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
10—15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20—25	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
25—35	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1
35—45	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
45—55	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
56—65	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
65 & up	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	5	4	7	3	3	0	1

Ward Distribution of Notifications and Deaths.

		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
North	...	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0
South	...	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	0
East	...	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
West	...	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
Central	...	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Totals		7	5	4	7	3	3	0	1

It is sometimes asked whether war conditions have had any influence upon the incidence of Tubercular diseases. In your district I should certainly be inclined to give a negative result.

CANCER.

The position as regards this disease is very disappointing. In 1941 there were 19 deaths from its various manifestations. This year we have 31, and it is almost, if not quite impossible to account for the increase. We do not appear, in spite of extensive research work, to be approaching the time when it can be said the disease has been conquered. The death-rate per 1000 is equal to 2·7, last year it was 1·7.

WARD DISTRIBUTION.

		Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000
North	...	4	2	6	
South	...	4	5	9	
East	...	3	3	6	
West	...	3	1	4	
Central	...	2	4	6	
Totals		16	15	31	1·71

ORGANS AFFECTED AND AGE INCIDENCE.

	35—45		45—55		55—65		65 & up		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Stomach	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	4	1
Intestine	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4	3	5
Liver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Foot	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Rectum	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Breast	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4
Lungs	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Uterus	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Prostate	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Testicle	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Face	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
Kidney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Thyroid	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	3	0	1	1	8	3	4	11	16	15

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As the tables show your district has not been so favourably placed as regards Infectious Diseases as last year, but there is little upon which I need comment.

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES.

	North Ward		South Ward		East Ward		West Ward		Central Ward		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	2	1	0	4	3	4	2	1	3	2	10	11
Diphtheria	0	1	1	4	4	6	1	2	1	4	7	17
Measles	2	5	2	6	3	4	1	0	1	2	9	17
Pneumonia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2
Para-Typhoid Fever	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cerebro-Sp. Fever	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	4	8	4	16	10	15	5	3	5	10	28	52

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE INCIDENCE.

Disease	Total	Under I	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 6	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up	Removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
Scarlet Fever	22	0	0	4	1	2	12	2	0	1	0	0	0	22	0
Diphtheria	24	0	0	1	2	2	6	3	3	7	0	0	0	24	0
Measles	26	0	0	1	3	9	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	7	0
Para-Typhoid Fever	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Cerebro.Spinal Fever	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	80	0	0	6	6	14	31	5	4	10	2	2	0	56	0

SCARLET FEVER. The cases of Scarlet Fever have been very mild, and need no comment, beyond saying that although the table shows that they have all been isolated at the Hospital they might quite as effectively have been treated at home.

DIPHTHERIA. The incidence of Diphtheria has not been so satisfactory, here again, the cases have been mild, and in no single instance has an immunised case been notified.

Speaking of immunisation enables me to say that although no generally organised scheme has been carried out, a great deal of activity has been shown in carrying out the proposals of the Ministry having for their object the complete immunisation of the child population, and in order that the maximum effort may be secured the County Council Health Visitors are asked to give their assistance in a great national effort to safeguard the children from Diphtheria.

PARA-TYPHOID FEVER. Of the two cases which were reported one on admission to Hospital was found to give a definitely "Negative" result to all bacteriological tests and the other was so mild as to be scarcely recognisable, as being of a specific character.

SMALL POX. Should any case of Small Pox arise in the district, arrangements have been made with the Kendal Joint Fever Hospital Board to admit them to their Hospital at Kendal.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Motor Ambulance provided by Joint Hospital Board for infectious diseases, and motor ambulance provided for non-infectious diseases.

LABORATORY WORK. Facilities are offered the Medical Practitioners for carrying out the Laboratory Investigations.

As this will be my last report I beg, in taking leave of the Council and Officials, to express my thanks to them for their ever ready co-operation and their very kindly consideration.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON,

M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Lond.,
late Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1943.

Annual Report of the : Sanitary Inspector. :

TOWN HALL,

ULVERSTON,

February, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee :—

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present herewith a brief summary of the work carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1942, relating to Public Health Administration.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS, Etc.

39 cases have been dealt with by letter, numerous other cases were dealt with by direct contact.

NEW HOUSING, SLUM CLEARANCE, Etc.

The Council's Re-housing and Slum Clearance programme is still in abeyance by order of the Ministry of Health. During the year 48 temporary bungalows have been erected by the Ministry of Aircraft Production on the Council's Fell Street Housing Site, and two in North Lonsdale Road. The assistance of my department was enlisted in preparing the layout, plans, roads, sewers and other services. The type of building leaves much to be desired, but as a war expedient the problem aggravated by the influx of war workers has in a measure been relieved.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE have received constant attention and have been kept in an efficient state.

SHOPS ACTS AND FACTORIES ACT.

The procedure required by these acts has received attention when cases have been brought up.

REFUSE REMOVAL AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

have been carried out satisfactorily, although a depleted staff, and increased population have severely taxed the resources of this department. Salvage to the value of £752 was collected, sorted and sold during the year. The weight of materials were as follows :—

		T.	C.	Q.
Paper	...	100	17	2
Metal	...	41	6	0
Rags	...	2	18	2
Sacking	...	3	8	1
Bones	...	3	4	2
Bottles	...	1	14	2

In addition, there is a considerable quantity of bottles and other glass ware on stock for which it has not been found possible to find a market.

In October the Council purchased 72 bins for the collection of Household Waste, and these were placed at 36 points in the town. The amount of Household Waste collected in the three months amounts to approximately 14 tons.

RATS. As in previous years, posters have been displayed, pointing out the urgency of exterminating rats, mice and, with this in view, rat poison has been issued free to ratepayers throughout the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Scarlet Fever notifications received	22
„ „ Diphtheria „ „	24
„ „ Para-Typhoid Fever „ „	2
	<hr/>
	48

The premises of the patients have been fumigated after the patients removal to hospital. Several of the cases were later found to be negative after removal to the hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply has been maintained without interruption. The Chlorination Plant was put into operation on the 8th May, 1942. For the information of the members the installation adopted is the Chloramine process, as chloramines have a very much more prolonged bacterial action simple chlorination. In addition, chloramines have the advantage of being tasteless and odourless, so that there is practically no possibility of complaints from users due to the detection of chemicals in the water supply.

The application of chlorine is under automatic control, any variation in the water flow automatically varies the rate of chlorine delivery.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommendations that a permanent visual record should be maintained of the chlorine consumption the plant is fitted with a chlorine flow recorder.

A number of tests for chlorine residual have been made and the results found satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. TELFORD HAGUE,

Sanitary Inspector.

